GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2297
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2000
US MILITARY COMMANDER`S VISIT TO INDIA
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Military Commander visited India for the first time in the month of January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether he met Defence minister and discuss the possibilities of reviving the Indo-US military steering group that was formed in 1990;

(c) the extent to which India has been assured of US defence arms and ammunition;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard was signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): Admiral Dennis C Blair, US Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Command, visited India from January 9-12, 2000. During his meetings with the Raksha Mantri and the three Service Chiefs, matters concerning the lifting of sanctions imposed by the US Government, reconvening of the meetings of the Indo-US Defence Policy Group and Services Executive Steering Groups, which were suspended consequent upon the Nuclear Tests undertaken by India in May, 1998, Defence related aspects of Indo-US relations and a number of international security issues were discussed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.